

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are pending. Claims 2, 4 and 6 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of cancelled claims 2, 4 and 6. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from Claim 1.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,470 (Nakahara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,680,183 (Sasuga). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious over Nakahara in view of Sasuga and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,032,006 (Grupp).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest the claims as amended. In the structure of amended claim 1, a liquid crystal layer is held in the gap between a pair of substrates. The substrates are joined by an anisotropic conductive resin formed in a ring surrounding a display area. Transparent electrodes are provided on the liquid crystal layer side of each of the pair of substrates. Metal lead wiring are provided on one of the substrate to be connected to the transparent electrodes such that the ends of the transparent electrodes on the one substrate are overlapped on the lead wiring thereby defining overlap portions. The overlap portions are disposed with the ring. A transparent dummy electrode is provided to control the gap. The transparent dummy electrode is formed opposite to the spaces between the ends of the transparent electrodes on the one substrate and the dummy electrode is formed to avoid positions opposite the overlap portions.

One of the problems solved by the presently claimed structure is the unevenness due to variations in the liquid crystal gap in the display area. In the claimed structure, in order to prevent this display unevenness, metal lead wirings are connected to the transparent electrodes at overlap portions and the dummy electrode is formed at positions between the overlap portions and inside the ring-shaped anisotropic conductive resin.

The Nakahara and Sasuga references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a transparent dummy electrode formed in spaces between the overlap portions and inside a ring-shaped anisotropic conductive resin material.

The cited Nakahara reference discloses a dummy electrode formed between lead wirings. However, as the Examiner acknowledges, Nakahara does not disclose the

claimed overlap structure between the metal lead wirings and the transparent electrodes. Therefore, this reference does not disclose or suggest the problem or a solution for unevenness in the liquid crystal gap due to overlap portions in a display area. That is, Nakahara does not disclose a dummy electrode formed at positions opposite to spaces between the overlap portions. The Sasuga reference discloses overlap portions for electrical connection in switching elements of a TFT liquid crystal device (the overlap portions are not shown in the drawings). But this reference does not disclose overlap portions of lead wirings in a STN liquid crystal device.

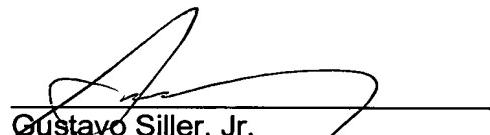
Therefore, the structure of Claim 1, as presently amended, is not disclosed or suggested by combination of the cited Nakahara and Sasuga references

Grupp fails to overcome the deficiencies of Nakahara and Sasuga and therefore, Claim 5 is also patentable.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1, 3 and 5, as amended, are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gustavo Siller, Jr.
Registration No. 32.305
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200